

WEATHER FORECAST.
Fair to-day and to-morrow; little change
in temperature; northwest winds.
Highest temperature yesterday, 59; lowest, 48.
Detailed weather reports on last page.

VOL. LXXXV.—NO. 237.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1918.—Copyright, 1918, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

BATTLE FOR AMIENS REVIEWED BY ENEMY; AMERICAN TROOPS PARTICIPATING IN FIGHT; HOLLAND AND GERMANY SEEM NEAR A BREAK

WILSON NAMES JOHN D. RYAN AS AIRCRAFT CHIEF

Copper Capitalist Heads
New Division of Production Board.

SQUIER IS ELIMINATED

Brig-Gen. William L. Kenly
to Control Operation and
Training of Corps.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—John D. Ryan, the copper capitalist, has been designated by the Administration to take up the work of creating an American air fleet to overwhelm the Germans. The selection of Mr. Ryan for this important post, following closely that of Charles M. Schwab to take charge of the production of ships, indicates that the Administration is committed to a policy of picking industrial leaders for great war tasks.

Formal announcement of Mr. Ryan's appointment was made to-night by Secretary Baker. A reorganization of the existing aircraft production machinery was also made, of which the following are the principal features:

A new division of the War Department is created to be known as the division of aircraft production, with Mr. Ryan as its director. This means that Mr. Ryan will report to Secretary Baker and not to the President directly, as was strongly recommended in the Senate committee report.

The Aircraft Production Board is continued as an advisory body but Mr. Ryan will supplant Howard E. Coffin as its chairman. Mr. Coffin remains, however, as one of its members.

Gen. Squier, Chief Signal Officer, who up till now has been the real head of the aircraft program, is eliminated entirely from the operation of aircraft and the training of aviators. Brig-Gen. William L. Kenly is placed at the head of this division. Mr. Kenly will start in at once and give up his whole time to it. The formal statement of the War Department covering the changes was as follows:

The War Department authorizes the following:
Mr. John D. Ryan has accepted the directorship of aircraft production for the army.

A reorganization of the aviation section of the Signal Corps also has been effected. The principal elements are as follows:
Gen. Squier, as chief signal officer, will devote his attention to the administration of aviation in the Signal Corps. The exact division of functions in the matter of designing and engineering will be worked out as experience determines between the division of military aeronautics and the division of production.

This announcement involves no change of personnel in the present equipment division or in the division of military aeronautics, which will continue under his direction.
Picking of Ryan a Surprise.

Mr. Ryan's selection for what many consider to be the most important task facing the country came as a surprise, as his name had not been mentioned in connection. Mr. Stettinius is understood to have been considered for a time, but Mr. Baker wanted him to remain in his present place. Mr. Ryan's selection is credited largely to Chairman Baruch of the War Industries Board, who is understood to have strongly influenced him for the place.

Mr. Ryan headed the committee of copper producers with whom Mr. Baruch, acting for the Government, made the official agreement by which the Government got \$50,000,000 pounds of copper at 15 cents a pound. Assistant Secretary of War Crowell, who has handled the aircraft situation in Mr. Baker's absence, is also understood to have favored Mr. Ryan, but the choice was not definitely made until yesterday, when the President agreed with Mr. Baker that the copper man was the one to handle the place.

Mr. Ryan's appointment was generally approved of to-night by those who have seen the aircraft problem their attention. It was his organizing and business ability that recommended him for the place, and it seemed to be the judgment of many that the aircraft program could be made speedily and efficiently to fructify under his management.

Mr. Ryan's appointment means a singularly new direction, which the American aircraft committee urged as a solution of the problem. The Marshall committee also recommended the

Will Take American Wounded to England

LONDON, April 24.—Preparations are being made by the American Red Cross to handle the American wounded from the troops brigaded with the British forces on the western front. The wounded from these units will be brought to England and sorted out after they reach this side of the English Channel.
American Red Cross officials say they expect to take over several hospitals to be used especially for this work.

CHAMBERLAIN BACKS WILSON

Announces Support of Over-
man Bill Giving Broader War
Powers to President.

NOT AFRAID OF ABUSE

He Is Glad Schwab and Stettinius, Red Tape Cutters,
Don't Wear Uniforms.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Senator George E. Chamberlain (Ire.), the bold critic of the Administration's conduct of the war on the Democratic side of the chamber, today announced that he intended to vote for the Overman bill. His intention was made known to his friends more than a week ago, but until now the public announcement of his intentions was not forthcoming.

Senator Chamberlain told his hearers that the inefficiency and incompetence which he had dared to point out in his speech last January had been magnified in large measure, although still existent.

He asserted that the Overman bill, which the President has signed, was a step forward with reforms, to which Senator Chamberlain thought the President was entitled.

Although he is his intention to vote for the bill, Senator Chamberlain made it clear that he would support the amendments offered by Senator Reed (Mo.), under which the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Reserve Bank, and the Federal Reserve Commission will be exempted from the operation of the measure, which is to set aside all legislative restraint upon the Federal Reserve Board.

Senator Chamberlain said into the record excerpts from statements made by the nominal author of the bill, Senator Overman (N. C.), regarding the amendments caused by stating the interdepartmental conditions which the North Carolinian had asserted hampered war work. Then he expressed the view that the director of munitions bill did not come as an impulse. It was evolved by the Military Affairs Committee after a great deal of thought and investigation.

The director of munitions bill did not come as an impulse. It was evolved by the Military Affairs Committee after a great deal of thought and investigation. The director of munitions bill did not come as an impulse. It was evolved by the Military Affairs Committee after a great deal of thought and investigation.

"I am still convinced that the bill for the director of munitions and war cabinet would have entirely served the purpose. The director of munitions bill did not come as an impulse. It was evolved by the Military Affairs Committee after a great deal of thought and investigation.

"Already there is in existence a body of men who virtually constitute the directorate of munitions. On March 4, 1918, Bernard M. Baruch was appointed by the President to be Chairman of the War Industries Board. His duties are practically those of a munitions director. Mr. Baruch has taken the bit in his teeth. The work of coordination in this department is going on."

"I believe that the country will agree with me that nearly every incompetent who was disclosed by the Military Affairs Committee has either been kicked up or kicked out. There has been a complete reorganization of war activities with the result that distinguished men have been placed in charge of important undertakings."

"Criticism has been made that civilians were put in the places of military men. I say that but for these distinguished civilians the war department would still be floundering in the dark."

Referring to Charles M. Schwab and Edward R. Stettinius, the Senator said: "These men have been through a great mass of red tape. They have attacked the problems in a businesslike way. It is fortunate that they have not put on uniforms, for where there are uniforms there is red tape."

POLICEMAN SHOT IN RAID.

Two Others Wounded While Dis-
guised as Soldiers.

Detective John T. Judge was shot and perhaps mortally wounded and two other detectives were badly hurt early this morning during a raid on a house at 29 South Clinton street, Flushing, where the detectives had been informed soldiers had been supplied with liquor.

The detectives were hardly inside the door when some one began shooting at them.

RETURN HOME OF MINISTERS IS REPORTED

More Difficulties Said to
Have Blocked Berlin-
Hague Parleys.

DUTCH STANDING FIRM

Netherlands Still Adheres to
Policy of Maintaining
Neutrality.

AMSTERDAM, April 24.—The *Het Volk* announces that the German Minister to the Netherlands has left The Hague for Berlin and that the Dutch Minister to Germany is on his way from Berlin to The Hague.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant* is informed by a person in authority that difficulties have arisen in the negotiations between Germany and Holland and the negotiations are not making headway.

The Hague correspondent of the *Handelsblad* says that the question of the transport of sand and gravel and the use of the railway line through Limbourg depends entirely on the intentions of Germany. The correspondent says that the Dutch Government will firmly observe neutrality, whatever may happen.

The Hague correspondent of the *Handelsblad* says that the question of the transport of sand and gravel and the use of the railway line through Limbourg depends entirely on the intentions of Germany. The correspondent says that the Dutch Government will firmly observe neutrality, whatever may happen.

GERMANS INCREASE FRONTIER GARRISONS

Movements of Dutch Commis-
sion Also Are Restricted.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from
London Times.

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 24.—Severe fighting has been going on to-day south of the Somme, where the Germans early in the morning, with three and perhaps more divisions (about 40,000 men) attacked the British and French positions on a front of about four miles, from above Villers-Bretonneux to Hangard.

This is the most serious attempt to hammer a way through to Amiens since the line that has been made for some time. At this moment the attack seems to have made progress only in the north, in the immediate vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux. There it has been checked; fighting is still going on and I understand we are forcing the enemy back.

We were quite prepared for an attack in this region. The German divisions of the line here until the 20th were the Ninth Bavarian Reserve in the Villers-Bretonneux area, then the Seventeenth, which is composed of Westphalians and Rhinelanders, and the Thirteenth Division to the south. The Fourth Guards, however, were put in for the attack on Villers-Bretonneux itself; after having a fortnight's rest they were fairly fresh, although this is the third time they have been in battle since March 21.

The attack was preceded by a very heavy bombardment in which a great quantity of gas was used, beginning at 8 o'clock and continuing with great intensity for four hours, when the attack was delivered. In the centre and on the right, in the French sector, this attack was repulsed immediately, and the losses inflicted upon the Germans by the French, especially about Hangard, are believed to have been very heavy.

In the north the guards succeeded in forcing an entrance on the east side of Villers-Bretonneux and in pushing through the south side of the village in the direction of Cachy. For the most part, however, this area was overrun by the enemy as long ago as March 20, when in the village of Villers-Bretonneux I saw our men working to form a post after they had driven the enemy back, as described in my despatch of April 1.

The object of the enemy to-day was we know, to get well beyond Villers-Bretonneux on the Cachy road. The first attack seems to have been beaten off.

Continued on Second Page.

WASHINGTON DOUBTS DUTCH WAR IS NEAR

Netherlands Army Numbers
Only 320,000 Men.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Indications are that Holland will be on the brink of war with Germany were accepted with great reserve here because of the realization that the Dutch people have sought at all costs to maintain neutrality and particularly because war with Germany generally had been regarded as next to suicidal for the Netherlands. It is seriously doubted here if the danger of hostilities really exists.

The total military strength of Holland is estimated at approximately 320,000 men, most of whom are militia on the border safeguarding Dutch neutrality. It is fully realized that the German hordes could scarcely be kept from overrunning Holland in case of war, although it is believed that the Dutch would put up heroic resistance.

The fact that Holland has had the

Continued on Third Page.

Our Troops Probably in Thick of Battle

THE French War Office report last night on the fighting in the renewed battle east of Amiens, particularly about Hangard, referred to this section as the "Franco-American front." This may indicate that American troops are in the thick of the battle of Picardy.

It has been known that they have been somewhere in the battle since April 6, when Stephen Pichon, Foreign Minister of France, speaking at Paris, referred to the Americans "fighting in Picardy and sacrificing their lives to drive the enemy from our land."

On April 10, despatches from both French and British headquarters in France reported the arrival of American troops. This was prior to the time when the French extended their lines far to the north of Montdidier.

HAIG EXPECTED SOMME DRIVE

British Ready for New Attack
and Germans Made But
Little Progress.

ENEMY USES GAS SHELLS
Losses Inflicted by French
About Hangard Believed
to Be Very Heavy.

By FERRY ROBINSON.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from
London Times.

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 24.—Severe fighting has been going on to-day south of the Somme, where the Germans early in the morning, with three and perhaps more divisions (about 40,000 men) attacked the British and French positions on a front of about four miles, from above Villers-Bretonneux to Hangard.

This is the most serious attempt to hammer a way through to Amiens since the line that has been made for some time. At this moment the attack seems to have made progress only in the north, in the immediate vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux. There it has been checked; fighting is still going on and I understand we are forcing the enemy back.

We were quite prepared for an attack in this region. The German divisions of the line here until the 20th were the Ninth Bavarian Reserve in the Villers-Bretonneux area, then the Seventeenth, which is composed of Westphalians and Rhinelanders, and the Thirteenth Division to the south. The Fourth Guards, however, were put in for the attack on Villers-Bretonneux itself; after having a fortnight's rest they were fairly fresh, although this is the third time they have been in battle since March 21.

The attack was preceded by a very heavy bombardment in which a great quantity of gas was used, beginning at 8 o'clock and continuing with great intensity for four hours, when the attack was delivered. In the centre and on the right, in the French sector, this attack was repulsed immediately, and the losses inflicted upon the Germans by the French, especially about Hangard, are believed to have been very heavy.

In the north the guards succeeded in forcing an entrance on the east side of Villers-Bretonneux and in pushing through the south side of the village in the direction of Cachy. For the most part, however, this area was overrun by the enemy as long ago as March 20, when in the village of Villers-Bretonneux I saw our men working to form a post after they had driven the enemy back, as described in my despatch of April 1.

The object of the enemy to-day was we know, to get well beyond Villers-Bretonneux on the Cachy road. The first attack seems to have been beaten off.

Continued on Second Page.

Concert of Blind for Smoke Fund To-night

DON'T miss the concert under
the auspices of the Blind
Tuners' Guild at the Lighthouse,
111 East Fifty-ninth street, to-
night. A particularly interesting
programme has been arranged
and it's for the benefit of THE
SUN Tobacco Fund. See page 6.

"Some contend that smoking is injurious. We agree that the after effects of the smokes you are sending 'Over There' will prove injurious to the Hun!"

—Extract from letter accompanying contribution of employees of the "R. M. Company."

WARNING! THE SUN TO-
BACCO FUND has no connection
with any other fund, organiza-
tion or publication. It employs
no agents or solicitors.

Continued on Second Page.

BRITISH BOMBS ADD TO DAMAGE AT ZEEBRUGGE

Airmen Report Great Hole
in Mole—Ostend Fairway
Partly Blocked.

NAVAL ATTACK GALLANT

German Guns on Breakwater
Were Turned Against Own
Fortifications.

LONDON, April 24.—Despite reports from Berlin to the contrary, great damage was done yesterday by the British in their raid against Zeebrugge and Ostend. The accounts of some of those who were in the action show that it was one of the most gallant episodes of the war. An official bulletin issued to-night by the British Admiralty says:

Following the naval operation on the enemy's coast yesterday morning, observations were made by aircraft and bomb attacks carried out by the Royal Naval Air Force. The observations were difficult owing to the clouds, and on this account our machines descended as low as fifty feet.

A clear break twenty yards wide was observed in the Zeebrugge Mole at its inner end. At Ostend a sunken object was seen lying between the piers and blocking the greater part of the fairway.

Numerous bombs were dropped on objectives on shore.

The Order of Knight Commander of the Bath has been conferred on Admiral Keyes in recognition of his services in command of the operations against Zeebrugge and Ostend. Commander Caspary, who was in command of the *Vindictive* during the attack, has been promoted to Captain.

Guided by Star Shells.

An officer of one of the motor boats which took part in the raid told a story of the blowing up of the mole.

"The submarine which did it," says this officer, "went at it from the starboard side. The German star shells showed very greatly in showing the way. We could see about 200 Germans on the bridge leading from the mole to the shore. They were very much surprised when the submarine had lost her way, and were rejoicing in the belief that they were going to trap her. But the submarine pushed under the bridge and when her cargo of explosives was touched off it blew the bridge and all standing on it into the air."

The *Vindictive* was seen to be firing at the mole and the wreckage of the bridge were falling all around us. By the blowing up of the bridge the mole was isolated and it was on this island that the *Vindictive's* men were landed and the fighting occurred."

The crew of one of the British submarines which was used to destroy the German pier at Zeebrugge were rescued according to a member of the crew, by an escorting destroyer.

The *Vindictive* and the *Irrepressible*, which aided the *Vindictive* in landing the storming parties on the Zeebrugge Mole, are steel, twin screw cutters of 465 tons, which will be remembered by thousands of Americans as municipal ferriesboats which carry 25,000 passengers annually between Liverpool and New Brighton.

Thrilling Stories Told.

Crews of the ships which took part in the raid in sight, including the thrilling stories of their adventures. One of them has described how, despite the fact that the Germans discovered their presence while they were still in the harbor, they made their way in through heavy gunfire, the *Vindictive* reaching the wharf, where she remained for an hour and a half.

"A landing party was put ashore," the seaman said, "and we captured the German guns on the breakwater and turned them around. We got them on the German fortified positions. As the sea was so rough there was not a place of any military importance left—we destroyed a lot."

"We had to leave many of our landing parties behind, but they were taken off by motor boats. One of our destroyers received a salvo of shells in her engine room and had to be beached. She was blown up after the survivors had been rescued."

"Motor boats destroyed every floating object in sight, including the German destroyers and some submarines. Those of the landing party who remained behind to continue the work of smashing the German guns, cutting her cables and raising her amidships, cutting her in half. As she sank we swarmed along the mole quickly, put out gangways and rushed onto the mole. By that time it was raining hard."

The first thing my party encountered was a giant German, who came out of the mole and tried to shoot at us. We put on full speed and he ran. As she sank we swarmed along the mole quickly, put out gangways and rushed onto the mole. By that time it was raining hard."

Continued on Second Page.

GERMAN LOSSES IN DRIVE ADMITTED TO BE 600,000

Report From Scandinavian Sources May Be Attempt
to Minimize New Casualties—Nation Cannot
Recover in Generation.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, April 24.—The German losses in killed and wounded in the first part of the great offensive on the Somme and on the Lys amounted to less than 600,000 men, according to reliable information received from Scandinavian sources. These figures, which of course are not official, come from trustworthy sources. There has been much discussion in the north of the motive behind the disclosure by Karl Bieblau in *Nord Europa* of German losses up to the end of January of this year, when he placed at 450,000 men killed, wounded or prisoners, excluding naval and colonial troops.

Combined with the figures for recent battles Germany's total losses now exceed 8,000,000 men. The figures given by Bieblau far exceeded anything that Germany previously had admitted. There is a suggestion that Bieblau's article was intended to minimize proportionately the recent losses on the western front, which are causing serious disturbances in Germany.

When the enormous casualties on the battlefield are added to the increased rate of mortality among the civilian population it is clear that Germany's losses cannot be recovered in a generation.

KUHLMANN GRIP HANGS ON FIGHT

German Foreign Minister
Holds on While Army Makes
Test of Strength.

REMOVAL LESS LIKELY

Opposing Faction Hopes to
Win by Force Where He
Failed by Diplomacy.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, April 24.—Political observers who have been watching the German campaign against Foreign Minister von Kuhlmann and expecting his resignation during the last few days say in the east that he will remain, for a time at least.

A former French Minister in conversation with the correspondent of *The Sun* pointed out that Kuhlmann's strength lay in the German weakness on the western battle front. The success of the negotiations with Russia, the developments in Germany's dealings with the Ukraine, Finland and the Baltic provinces, and also to discuss the changes in the Austrian Cabinet in the letter of Emperor Charles.

A special despatch from Zurich says that early next week von Kuhlmann will call on the Emperor to resign as Foreign Minister. The President of the Reichstag and the party chiefs for the purpose of communicating confidential reports on the outcome of the negotiations with Russia, the developments in Germany's dealings with the Ukraine, Finland and the Baltic provinces, and also to discuss the changes in the Austrian Cabinet in the letter of Emperor Charles.

The first attack was thrown back, but the enemy immediately came forward again, and this time met with more success. In the face of heavy machine gun and rifle fire the Germans pushed toward the town, their three tanks leading. The British gave way slightly, and the enemy got a footing in the eastern fringe of the town.

Further north, a little above the Albert region, the British infantry put up a stout fight, for artillery protection about 4 o'clock this morning, and what appeared to promise a serious attack began to show. It turned out to be nothing more pretentious than an attempted raid, however, as the enemy's attack was repulsed. The British carried out minor operations at Ginchy which resulted in the recapture of a strong post which the enemy had taken.

Trouble has been brewing in the Somme sector for days, the enemy maintaining a bombardment of more or less intensity over a wide area. Throughout the night the British fought back with roundings places were shelled heavily and this morning the bombardment was increased greatly.

On the northern battlefield the German artillery pounded the Entente all night long, especially in the area of the Robecq and Merville sectors, and this morning an intense bombardment was put down in the British positions on both sides of the River Lys. Thus a large section of the northern battlefield was seething all day.

An attack above Albert came after a half hour bombardment by the enemy. As the German infantry left their positions, the British fought back with rifle and machine gun fire and forced a hasty retirement.

A British operation yesterday over a 2,000 yard front in the Riez du Vinage sector was a complete success, greatly improved the defending lines. A nasty salient about 1,600 yards wide and about the same depth had bulged out of the British line just south of Riez du Vinage. By their attack the British drove the enemy from this salient and straightened their line.

By personal examination," he said, "I ascertained that the letter contained nothing but peace efforts made in agreement with the German Empire and nothing but a desire to bring about a peace. The text as rectified by Count Cernin (Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister at the time) was the genuine text."

Two Italian Steamships Sank.

Rome, April 24.—One steamship of over 1,500 tons and one steamship of less tonnage were sunk during the week ended April 20, according to the official statement on losses by mines or submarines issued to-night.

Long Range Gun Still Shells Paris.

PARIS, April 24.—The long range bombardment of Paris continued to-day. There were no victims.

British Yield a Mile After All Day Battle at Villers- Bretonneux.

FRENCH ALSO GIVE WAY

Germans Again Gain Foot-
hold in Much Contested
Village of Hangard.

HAND TO HAND FIGHTING

Resumption of Battle Accom-
panied by Strong Attacks
on Lys and at Albert.

LONDON, April 24.—After a violent bombardment which lasted all day yesterday and most of last night the Germans launched attacks in great strength against the British and French lines in Picardy at 6:30 o'clock this morning in a renewed effort to break through to Amiens and thence to the coast.

In the French official statement to-night reference is made to the "Franco-American positions south of the Somme and on the Avre." This may indicate that American troops are fighting with the French in the thick of the battle, as reference was made in an official report almost two weeks ago to their presence in this region.

The first attacks were repulsed, but a little later in the morning the Germans came back in even greater force, concentrating the assaults on the supposed weak points of the line. Villers-Bretonneux, at the upper tip of the salient, and the nearest point to Amiens, from which it is only eleven and a half miles away, and Hangard, on the Luce River, the junction point of the British and French armies.

Fighting of the most desperate character ensued, much of it of the hand-to-hand variety, and the opposing troops swept back and forth over the contested area practically all day. In the evening the British, unable to withstand the pressure longer, retired from Villers-Bretonneux, while about four miles to the south, at Hangard, the Germans forced their way into the factory district of the village despite the efforts of the French to prevent them.

The maximum German gain was made at Villers-Bretonneux and was about one mile. Marshal Haig to-night reports the loss of the salient and adds that fighting there still continues. The German attacks on the northern and southern ends of the British line were repulsed, he says, and given in the centre was any ground given.

At the same time as this resumption of the battle of Picardy the Germans delivered sharp attacks on the north bank of the Somme and northwest of Albert; both of these were repulsed by the British, who took some prisoners. Nor was the Lys battlefield neglected. Gen. Haig describes as a local operation, now west of Festubert, which is a little west of La Bassée, a post captured by the Germans on Monday was regained despite the most obstinate resistance, and some prisoners and machine guns were taken. Early this morning also the Germans delivered a strong local attack east of Roiebaux, in the southwestern tip of the Lys salient, but were driven back, leaving eighty-four prisoners in the hands of the British. Additional prisoners were taken in British assaults near the forest of Nieppe and Meteren.

Attack Near Albert Reported.

There was heavy artillery fighting last evening in the valley of the Scarpe, just east of Arras and also north of Bethune and northeast of Baillieux, in the Lys salient. A rather severe attack by infantry drove the German back northwest of Albert was driven back.

The German report asserts that in fighting northeast of Baillieux yesterday they captured Neufchâteau Hill, together with some French prisoners, and that they frustrated several British advances northwest of Bethune.

Heavy fighting is still in progress to-night in the French sector at Hangard. The Germans took not only the outskirts of the village but also the wooded hill to the north. The struggle began at 6 o'clock in the morning and continued all day. Other attacks in the vicinity, near Hallies, Senecot Wood and Hill 62, failed.

The correspondent of the Associated Press with the French army in France describes the fighting as follows:

"The Germans opened an attack in force early this morning in the vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux. They had been concentrating for some days. Whether they intend to make another desperate effort to capture Amiens cannot be foretold, but even if they succeed the effort would be useless from a military standpoint."

Allies Greatly Strengthened.

"Their previous attempt was frustrated by the determined and heroic resistance of rapidly improved bodies of French and British troops. Since then both sides have had an opportunity to strengthen their positions while awaiting developments."

"Despite the atmospheric difficulties during the last few days the allied aviators have been able, through daring tactics, to observe movements by the enemy. They reported the arrival of large reinforcements of German guns."

BOMB SANK THE FLORENCE H.

Put on Board Before She Left the
L. S. Says French Report.

PARIS, April 24.—The blowing up of the American steamship *Florence H.*, off the coast of Brittany is believed to have been due, says the Radio Agency, to a bomb placed on board before she left the United States, as it is to explode when the vessel reached port.

Owing to a fire on board, the news agency adds, the bomb exploded prematurely.